

## **Major General W. E. Gaskin**

### **Commanding General, Multi National Force - West**

Major General Walter E. Gaskin graduated from Savannah State University's NROTC Scholarship Program in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He later earned a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1992. He was commissioned a 2ndLt on 2 June 1974. After graduation from the Basic School, he was assigned to the Second Marine Division and served as a Rifle Platoon Commander and Executive Officer of Company K and the 106 Recoilless Rifle Platoon Commander for Third Battalion, Second Marines.



In May 1977, he went to Okinawa and served as the S-3 for Logistic Support Units (LSU) Echo and Foxtrot, 3d Force Service Support Group. He also served as the senior watch officer in the 3d Marine Division Command Center. In May 1978, he reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island where he served as a Series Commander and Commanding Officer of Company F, Second Recruit Training Battalion. In 1980, he was assigned as the Marine Officer Instructor (MOI) at the NROTC Unit, Savannah State University and as the assistant Officer Selection Officer (OSO), Recruiting Station Macon, GA. Completing his MOI / Recruiting assignment Major General Gaskin was ordered to Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, VA in 1983.

In July 1984, Major General Gaskin joined First Battalion, Second Marines where he served as the Operations Officer (S-3). He was subsequently selected to attend the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS in July 1986. From 1987 until 1990, Major General Gaskin served as an action officer HQMC/MCCDC in charge of Unit Environmental Training Programs [Jungle, Cold Weather, Combined Arms Exercises (CAX)]. In 1990, he was assigned to the Combined Forces Command, Seoul Korea, where he served as Head, Ground Forces Branch, Operations Division, C/J-3. In July 1992, he reported to II MEF where he served as G-3 Current Operations Action Officer and Operations Officer for II MEF (FWD) during the planning and execution of Battle Griffin Exercise in Norway.

In July 1993, Major General Gaskin attended the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA. After graduation in June 1994, he was assigned as the Executive Officer, Sixth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division. In April 1995, he assumed command of Second Battalion, Second Marines (2/2). In January 1996, he deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as the Commanding Officer of Battalion Landing Team 2/2 (BLT 2/2) as part of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable [22nd MEU (SOC)] as the Landing Force Sixth Fleet (LF6F). During that deployment, he participated in Operation Assured Response and Quick Response in Defense of American Embassies in Liberia and The Central African Republic. From September 1996 to July 1998, Major General Gaskin served as the Ground Colonel's Monitor at Headquarters Marine Corps. In August 1998, he returned to Camp Lejeune for duty as Head of Expeditionary Operations, G-3, II MEF.

In January 1999, Major General Gaskin assumed command of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. In September 1999, he deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as Landing Force Sixth Fleet (LF6F). During this deployment the 22nd MEU (SOC) participated in Bright Star 99/00 in Egypt and Infinite Moonlight in Jordan. In addition, the 22nd MEU served as

the Strategic Reserve for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In March 2000, he assumed the duties of Commanding General, Training Command, Training and Education Command, MCCDC. Major General Gaskin then served as the Chief of Staff, Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe and as the Deputy Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Europe, in Naples Italy. He commanded Marine Corps Recruiting Command from September 2004 until June 2006. He was promoted to his current rank in October 2005.